that the people have been requesting the Government very often for the provision of a playground? Therefore, will the Government expedite the work and provide a playground for the school?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"Yes, Sir. That is why a Special Officer has been posted for expediting acquisition proceedings."

Construction of bridges across the Sonnehalla and Thattahalla in Kollegal taluk.

* 415 *Q.*—SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to construct bridges across the Sonnehalla and Thattahalla on either side of Hanur in Kollegal taluk; and

(*b*) if so, the present stage of the proposal?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"(*a*) Yes, Sir.

"(*b*) The works have been included in the five-year plan of road development and they will be taken up for execution by the Coimbatore District Board in due course."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH :—"Will the Government take into consideration that these rivers cut the road which is the only means of communication in this taluk?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"That is why that work is included in the Development Programme and it will be taken up in the due course."

Payment of land-tax by Government to Municipalities for vacant lands.

* 418 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have been paying land-tax to any municipality for vacant lands belonging to the Government?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"Yes, Sir."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—"May I know why the vacant land tax has not been paid to the Udipi Municipality?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"Vacant land, though under the strict interpretation of the Madras District Municipalities Act means land not occupied by or adjacent or appurtenant to buildings and not used exclusively for agricultural purposes, will ordinarily mean vacant sites fit for construction of houses or other buildings. It is not the intention of the Act to levy tax on all kinds of vacant and poramboke lands belonging to Government from which no income is derived by Government."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—"Repeated representations have been sent by the Municipality of Udipi that, without this tax being